



# *Friends of Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics, Inc.*

*ACT-SO is a major youth initiative of the NAACP*

*Olympics*  
of  
the  
*Mind*

January 6, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Today's technologically advanced society makes demands upon our youth, academically and financially. At ACT-SO, we provide a year long enrichment program that is designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American High School Students. We are committed to the intellectual development of youth and the economic empowerment of the African American community and we have seen the benefits of broadband technology for our emerging leaders.

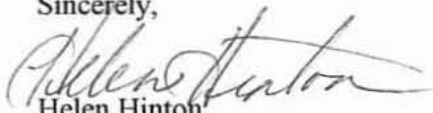
Broadband technology affords its adopters incredible economic and civic benefits. With a broadband connection, we can search for jobs, acquire marketable skills, and even start our own businesses. Broadband links our members to distance learning programs and e-government resources, promoting educational advancement and civic engagement. From Florida's biggest cities like Orlando and Miami, to our most rural communities, ubiquitous broadband access is not yet a reality. Rather than imposing regulations that could limit who gets online, we urge the Commission to use this time to focus on getting all Americans connected.

We have concerns about the implications that such regulations will have on the African American community, as well as all Americans who are currently underserved by broadband technology. In light of our experiences, we feel compelled to offer our perspective on the Commission's Open Internet Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).

Before any actions are taken on the NPRM, it is imperative that the Commission consider the effect that such regulations will have on those who still lack a broadband connection. Without such information, we fear that those who stand to benefit the most from broadband will be further excluded from our digital society.

We urge the Commission to direct its efforts towards bridging the digital divide, rather than promoting policies that could potentially exacerbate it.

Sincerely,

  
Helen Hinton  
Chair

*c/o: Helen Hinton, 2329 Northwest 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311*